433 supply is greatly dependent upon recovery in grain production. So long as the grain supply barely meets the needs for bread, very little will be used for hogs and cattle. To regain the pre-war production level of fats will require at least three to five years.

185 231 The Five Year Plan, 1946-50, provides that 17 meat packing plants, 10 poultry farms, 11 urban milk-processing plants, two milk canneries, and 150 dairies be restored or built in the B.S.S.R. As at December 1946 the Minister of Agriculture reported that 26,000 livestock farms were again functioning on collectives. These farms are looked to as the source of an estimated 35,000 tons of butter and cheese products in 1947.

Following is a table which shows the numbers of livestock in the B.S.S.R. in 1950, as fixed by the Five Year Plan.

TABLE VII

B.S.S.R.: Livestock Numbers in 1950 (Planned)

	Total	Including on collective farms
Horses	770,000	330,000
Cattle	2,860,000	852,000
Pigs	2,600,000	300,000
Sheep and goats	2,900,000	600,000

231 Source: The Five Year Plan, 1946-50.

It will be noted that the proportion of livestock held on the collectives is not great, except in the case of horses, which are regarded as means of production and are therefore not allowed in private ownership. A comparison of the preceding figures with those in Table VI shows how heavily the war has reduced the numbers. It is particularly important to note that the number of horses for 1950 is fixed far below the pre-war number existing in Byelorussia after the incorporation of the Western region. As has already been seen, the lack of these animals is the more seriously felt because of the limited number of tractors available.

Improvement of the Collective Farm Organization

731 Despite the major difficulties, Byelorussian farmers in 1946 made considerable progress toward regaining the ground lost during the war. In this respect, they were more fortunate than those in other areas of the Soviet Union, to whom 1946 brought disaster. From Moldavia to the Urals, south to the Kuban and north to Moscow, crops were ruined by the worst drought since 1891. Particularly stricken was the Ukraine, which before the war supplied one-fifth of the grain for the entire U.S.S.R.

731 This natural catastrophe, in addition to all the other burdens of post-war recovery, has necessitated even greater efforts by the farmers to overcome handicaps and to boost production as high as their hardest labours will allow.

474 The Soviet Government has, since the drought, taken additional steps[1] to eliminate difficulties and to strengthen the collective farm management. On September 19, 1946, the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R. and the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the U.S.S.R. issued a decree calling for the elimination of abuses of the collective farm charter. [647] A Collective Farm Council was created, the main tasks of which are to establish "strict control over the observation of collective farm statutes"; to guard the collective farm property against embezzlement or misuse; and to ensure greater participation in the farm management by the workers themselves.

Under the new regulations of September 1946, all lands illegally taken from the collectives are being restored. Sovietskaya Byelorussia reported: "More than 81,000 hectares of land... have been returned to the collective farms (in Byelorussia)." Unauthorized personnel are being taken off the payrolls; administrative staff is being reduced; and the collective farmers are taking greater part in the administration of the kolkhoz. General meetings are called regularly, and management and auditing committees elected by the membership are responsible for reporting back to the membership. "The democratic procedure of convening general meetings for discussion of and decision on vitally important questions... is now being returned."[1]

Planned Increases in Agricultural Production

185 According to the Five Year Plan, 1946-50, the crop area of the
433 U.S.S.R. in 1950 is to reach 5.3 million hectares, including 3.2 million hectares under grain, 344,000 hectares under industrial crops, 1.06 million under potatoes, vegetables, and fruit, and 690,000 hectares under fodder crops.

Average yields of all crops are expected to be as follows: grain, 1.03 metric tons per hectare; potatoes, 14.5 tons per hectare; and flax, 0.3 tons per hectare. These are somewhat lower than the yields fixed for the Soviet Union as a whole because of the relatively poor quality of the soil in Byelorussia: for example, in the R.S.F.S.R. in 1950 the average yield of grain is to be 1.2 metric tons per hectare, while that of flax is put at 0.4 tons per hectare.

According to the Moscow periodical, Slavyane (1946, II-III, pp.32-35), the R.S.F.S.R.'s total production of grain in 1950 will represent an increase of 10 per cent. over 1940. On this basis, the 1940 grain harvest must have been between 2.7 and 3 million tons. In the U.S.S.R. the 1940

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1 Sovietskaya Byelorussia, Minsk, December 20, 1946.

1/ [in 1946--Analyst]